



Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

For immediate release: Sept. 20, 2004 (04-63)
Contact: Bill Brookreson (360) 902-1810
Kathy Kravit-Smith (360) 902-1888
Kate Sandboe (360) 902-1815

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
P.O. Box 42560, Olympia, Washington 98504-2560

Visit our Web site at: agr.wa.gov

WSDA names new state veterinarian

OLYMPIA – A veterinarian with almost 40 years of experience in the field of large animal veterinary medicine has been selected as the new state veterinarian with the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Dr. Leonard Eldridge will begin his new job on Oct. 11. He currently is the owner and manager of the Lewiston Veterinary Clinic in Lewiston, Idaho. Until May he also worked as the sales yard veterinarian for the Lewiston Livestock Market.

“We are quite pleased to have someone of Dr. Eldridge’s experience and stature joining our agency,” said Bill Brookreson, WSDA deputy director. “His background working in the large animal industry and with both federal and state regulatory officials makes him an outstanding candidate for this position.”

As the state veterinarian, Eldridge will manage WSDA’s Animal Health program, which is responsible for preventing the spread of infectious animal diseases in the state. He also will oversee the development and implementation of emergency plans for foreign animal diseases and the care, sheltering and treatment of animals involved with natural disasters. He will supervise the assistant state veterinarian, four field veterinarians, a veterinarian technician and other staff.

“I am honored to be chosen for the position,” Eldridge said. “Although my experience is primarily in private practice, I have extensive knowledge of state and federal health and vaccination requirements from my work as a sales yard veterinarian. In that position my duties included brucellosis surveillance, including laboratory testing for cattle and swine.”

As owner/manager of the Lewiston Veterinary Clinic, Eldridge supervised eight veterinarians and 30 employees. His practice is located on the Idaho/Washington border, with more than half of his work involving large animals in Washington. A graduate of the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Eldridge is licensed to practice in Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

Eldridge served on the Idaho State Board of Veterinary Medicine from 1992-1997, is a former member and past president of the Nez Perce County Cattlemen’s Association, and was named Idaho Veterinarian of the Year in 1996. He was this year’s Grand Marshal for the Lewiston Roundup Association.

###